

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM

for the

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

4A-247A

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON:				
Slave Quarter at "Batchelor's Choice"				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
East side of Route 2, one mile south of jct. with Rtes. 408 & 422				
CITY OR TOWN:				
near Lothian				
STATE:		COUNTY:		
Maryland		Anne Arundel		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____				
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME:				
Mr. & Mrs. Edward William Digges, Jr. Phone: 867-4550				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		
Lothian		Maryland		20820
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		
Map #68, E.D. #1, Parcel #215, Liber/Folio #2080/332				
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> (Check One) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered </div> <div> (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site </div> </div>
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>A simple, frame structure with an A-roof, a center entrance and a large exterior chimney, stands near the main house at "Batchelor's Choice" (AA-38-A-a). It was built, probably in the second quarter of the 19th century, to house the household servants. It was renovated by the present owners and they lived there while the major work was being done on the main house.</p> <p>This building is one of the few examples of its kind remaining in the area.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

44-20054

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF ~~MONUMENTED~~ PROPERTY: 10 acres

Acreage Justification:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:
National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

A.A. - 240 A
1002#002400, 4

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

BATCHELLOR'S (sic) CHOICE: HOUSE SERVANTS DWELLING

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

SOLOMAN'S ISLAND RD.

CITY, TOWN

LOTHIAN, MD.

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

ANNE ARUNDEL

STATE

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES RESTRICTED☐ YES UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

EDWARD DIGGES, JR.

Telephone #: 301-867-4550

STREET & NUMBER

Same as above

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Maryland Historical Society Inventory

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE
Md.

7 DESCRIPTION

44 2074

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This one and one half story, frame house is located 63 yards northwest on a diagonal from the northwest corner (rear) of the main house. Behind and below it a road, which used to be one of the main plantation roads, runs back into the fields, where another slave cabin was once located. A slave cemetery is supposedly located about 100 yards in front of the house, but the area is so overgrown with ivy that it has not yet been found. No gravestones mark its location.

The house was substantially altered a few years ago, when the present owners renovated it for occupancy while the main house was being repaired. However, the features that one sees now, while of modern construction, are more or less similar to the original, according to the present owners, who themselves dismantled and re-constructed the dwelling.

The original frame consisted of 2"x4" or 2"x6" studs and was sheated by horizontal overlapping clapboards of about the same width and thickness as the replacements. It stood on brick pilings, the underpinning there today being absent then. The locations of the door and windows were not changed, though the front windows were shortened 8", because the owners could not find glass to fit the old panes, and due to pressing circumstances did not have the free time necessary to find old glass.

The ground floor measures about 24'x16' and stands 8'6" from the top of the top of the brick pilings to the bottom of the box cornice. Since the present renters of the house were absent, I could not go inside for more measurements. The loft measures the same in width and length and is c. 8' from the floor to the peak of the roof.

The house was originally covered with wood shingles and the brick chimney, though repaired in spots, is similar enough to the original to give a good indication of what the original was like. The older bricks measure roughly 8"x2"x4" and appear to be hand-made. The mortar is mixed with stone, and oyster shell fragments.

According to the owner, a swinging crane is in the hearth and is still serviceable.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
0-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Source: William Hall, 301- 867-0672. Oral interview.

Batchellor's Choice had been in the Hall family for generations. His grandmother, Mrs. Elma Sellman Hall, was an invalid. According to family tradition, this dwelling was built near the main house so that a black family servant, Perdills Easton, could be nearby to care for Mrs. Hall during her illness. Mrs. Hall died in the early 1880's. Mr. Hall said that this house was built therefore in the 1870's -- not in the 60's or earlier. He is quite certain about this. So this house was not a slave cabin.

However, being built immediately after emancipation, its dimensions, construction, and architecture could have been modelled after slave cabins. On the other hand, perhaps after freedom, the freedmen and women may have asked, demanded, or built for themselves more substantial and comfortable houses. This house might then represent that change. In this particular case, comparison with other slave cabins reveals that this house is too similar in construction and design to slave cabins (examples -- Grasslands and Essex in Anne Arundel County) to constitute a considerable improvement from slavery to freedom in the housing of plantation blacks.

Addendum:

According to the present owners, the original interior of the house was divided into two rooms downstairs by a partition. The joists were exposed underneath the floorboards of the loft.

A small enclosed stairway led to the upper chamber that was one open room. There was no hearths, thus no heat except that which rose from the downstairs fireplace, a situation common to the houses of the folk, whether they be slaves or postbellum tenants, black or white.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

George W. McDaniel

1/18/76

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Commission on Afro-American and Indian History and Culture

STREET & NUMBER

12 W. Madison Street

TELEPHONE

301- 383-3648

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore,

STATE

MD.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



AA-
240A

(map 29)
aa-38-Q-b
at. "Batchelor's Choice"
Slave Quarter

amh 11-74



House Servants
Dancing at
Batchellors
choir

AA - 240 A

Sum

2/78

MH7, Annapolis
North Elevation



House Servants' Dwelling at
Batchellors (sic) Choice

AA - 240A

Swm

2/26

NH7, Annapolis

East Elevation